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SECURITY INFORMATION
REPORT

COUNTRY East Germany

TOPIC Information on Soviet Troop Movements

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 4 November 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. [redacted] Troops were entrained at Alteburg, Halle, and Altengrabow for dispatch to the Erfurt area about 10 October 1953. After 16 October, the volume of Soviet troop movements connected with the return of units to their winter quarters increased to such an extent that non-military traffic was seriously affected. Major detraining operations took place in Halle and Magdeburg after 17 October. Rail shipments to the Magdeburg area were also continuously observed. It appears that these troop movements have been completed in the meantime, because the trains involved in these operations are being disassembled.

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2. [redacted] a shunter of Gera railroad station who was detached to Grossschwabhausen on 12 October, that Soviet troops were continuously detrained near Grossschwabhausen for three days. Temporary ramps and other loading facilities had been built along the line. The shunter also stated that local farmers had been ordered to harvest their fields prior to 12 October because of maneuvers to be held in this area. 2

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3. Troop movements identified [redacted] included: 25X1

B - boxcar
F - flatcar
C/B - converted boxcar

Date in October	Number of Railroad Cars Involved	Load	From	To
15	46 B	presumably troops	Dresden	Brest Litovsk
17	50 freight cars	undetermined	Kotteritz	Welzow
	43 B	undetermined	Cottbus	Erfurt
18	6 F	5 tanks	Vetschau	Erfurt

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19	42 B	troops	Stapelburg	Guben
	43 B	presumably troops	Dresden	Frankfurt/Oder
20	45 B	undetermined	Jueterbog Altes Lager	Frankfurt/Oder (B-2)
	43 B	presumably troops	Dresden	Guben
21	43 freight -cars	undetermined	Kuestrin	Magdeburg (B-2)
22	38 freight -cars	undetermined	Koenigsbrueck	Velten

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4.

the following Soviet troop trains were handled between 17 and 19 October:

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Date in October	Number of Cars	Load	From	To	
17	12 B, 37 F	undetermined	Erfurt	Rathenow	
	10 B, 35 F	"	Blankenhain	"	
18	12 B, 30 F	"	Neudietendorf	"	
	12 B, 32 F	"	"	"	
	11 B, 39 F	46 trucks, 16 mortars 3 field kitchens	"	"	
	22 B, 28 F	undetermined	Neudietendorf	"	
	16 B, 29 F	"	"	"	
19	9 B, 40 F	"	"	"	
	14 B, 37 F	7 model M-31 rocket launchers	"	"	
		4		25X1	
		tank trucks, 3 field kitchens, 40 trucks			
	21 B, 35 F	17 model M-31 rocket launchers,	"	"	
		2 field kitchens, and 36 trucks	4		
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5. [redacted] 45 converted boxcars, 2 boxcars, and 5 kitchen cars had to be made available for dispatch to Berkenbrueck on 20 October; and 40 converted boxcars for dispatch to Frankfurt/Oder on the Oder River on 22 October. 25X1

6. Soviet troop trains identified from official railroad records included:

Date in October	Number of Railroad Cars Involved	Load	From	To	
20	49 C/B	undetermined	Jueterbog Altes Lager	Frankfurt/ Oder	
21	54 cars	"	Dresden	"	
	54 cars	"	Eberswalde	Guben	
	54 cars	"	Frankfurt/Oder	?	
	54	"	"	Guben	
	7 C/B 3 F	"	Weimar	Trebbin	
22	54 cars	empty	Eberswalde	Kuestrin	
	54 cars	loaded	Kuestrin	Magdeburg	
	53 cars	loaded	Frankfurt	Angermuende	
23	54 cars	loaded	Kuestrin	Fuerstenberg	

7. [redacted] nine converted boxcars had to be made available for dispatch from Bernau to Bad Freienwalde; and three converted boxcars for dispatch to Fuerstenwalde on 24 October. 25X1

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1. Comment. Already about 10 October, [redacted] unidentified artillery units of the Eighth Gds Army from Altenburg, component units of the 21st Gds Mecz Div from Halle, and major elements of the IV Arty Corps, and the 43d Gds Army Arty Brig of the Eighth Gds Army from Halle were proceeding to the area in which the fall maneuvers of the Eighth Gds Army were held. Corresponding observations confirming this information have been reported in the mean time. Reports have also been received to the effect that component units of the 21st Gds Mecz Div and of the IV Arty Corps returned from the maneuver area of the Eighth Gds Army to Halle on the one hand, and to Potsdam, Altengrabow, and Rathenow on the other. The unidentified engineer regiment of the GOFG moved from the Ohrdruf-Erfurt area to Bernburg on 14 and 15 October. The movements of units from Merseburg about 10 October were reported for the first time. This indicates.

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that the 76th Arty Brig (US), after returning to its military posts on 7 October, again left Merseburg to participate in the fall maneuvers of the army.

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2. [redacted] The area near Grossschwabhausen was also reported by other sources as one of the detraining points used by the Eighth Gds Army in connection with its fall maneuvers.

3. [redacted] Comment. Most of these trains were probably used for the rotation of personnel between East Germany and the USSR, which was started in mid-October. The train observed on 20 October leaving Jueterbog is believed to be identical with shuttle train [redacted] while the train which reportedly left Küstrin on 21 October, is probably identical [redacted]

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[redacted] See also paragraph 6 of the present report. The other trains mentioned cannot be evaluated because no shuttle train [redacted] were given.

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4. [redacted] Comment. These movements were connected with the return of major elements of the IV Arty Corps from Thuringia to Rathenow. The trains [redacted] were reported for the first time. The trains which were observed carrying weapons were loaded with component units of the 65th Mort Brig (US) and of the 25th RL Brig. According to information available, a total of 14 troop tra[UNCODED]

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[redacted] were dispatched from Thuringia to Rathenow between 17 and 19 October.

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5. [redacted] Comment. All the shuttle trains [redacted] 25X1 were reported for the first time. The information contained in this paragraph proves that the movement of recruits from the USSR to East Germany has been started. The troop cars mentioned in paragraph 7 of the present report carried dischargees to assembly points.

6. [redacted] Comment. A signal unit of the 3rd Gds Mecz Army presumably also participated in the fall maneuvers of the Eighth Gds Army.

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